

Welcome to Phoenix and the Valley of the Sun!

We've collected some recommendations from locals. An asterisk () means highly recommended. If you don't have much time here, do this stuff first.*



Places to Eat

Note: There isn't too much within walking distance (as midtown Phoenix isn't a very walkable part of town), but Uber/Lyft and the light rail are easy and inexpensive, and there are so many good options just a short distance away.

Very Near (less than a 10-minute walk from the Creighton Health Sciences Building):

Food/coffee/adult beverages

- CC's on Central – excellent new breakfast and lunch spot 0.3 miles away
- The Green Woodpecker – nice place for drinks and bar food/excellent tacos
- Panera Bread
- King's – wine and beer bar (with a shop for takeaway)
- Fired Pie – pizza & craft beer
- First Watch – chain restaurant serving breakfast and lunch

- Ocotillo – beautiful patio, good drinks and food; separate bar called Sidecar with excellent cocktails (11 min walk)

A Little Farther (less than a 10-minute drive or ride on the lightrail from the Creighton Health Sciences Building):

Coffee Shops (and a great local donut chain):

- *Skoden Coffee – indigenous & queer-owned coffee shop
- Lux (3 min drive, 30 min walk)
- Cartel (2 min drive, 25 min walk)
- Dark Hall (vegan) and their adjacent sister restaurant, The Coronado
- Songbird Coffee and Tea House
- Kahvi
- Bosa Donuts – excellent donuts with various locations around the valley

Good Food (along lightrail stops unless otherwise noted):

- *Latha – less than 5 mins from lightrail
- *Pa'La Downtown – Mediterranean, South American and Japanese small plates (pricey but so delicious)
- *Tacos Chiwas – not on the light rail, but about a mile from Creighton and worth it
- *Gallo Blanco – excellent Mexican food (lots of seating, has patio) (not on lightrail, but easily accessible by car/taxi)
- First and Last – less than 5 mins from lightrail
- Bad Jimmy's – less than 5 mins from lightrail
- Forno301 – pizza and pasta
- Fame – cute spot for breakfast
- Blanco Tacos – local chain, good and reliable
- Wren & Wolf – chic new downtown restaurant
- Durant's – classic steakhouse
- Pane Bianco – Chris Bianco's lunch time sandwich shop (sit down or takeaway)
- Belly – vegan friendly Thai/Vietnamese/Japanese restaurant with excellent cocktails

- Windsor/Postino/Federal Pizza/Joyride Tacos – all part of an excellent local restaurant group; restaurants are just north of Central & Camelback, slightly off lightrail. All have good patios and are good for groups.
- Dahlia's Tapas – not on lightrail, but nearby; popular spot for delicious tapas and tequila flights
- Welcome Diner – modern diner with a great patio, vegan friendly (not on lightrail, but easily accessible by car/taxi)
- Cibo – cute Italian restaurant in a restored home with a nice garden (not on lightrail, but easily accessible by car/taxi)
- Changing Hands Bookstore – lovely wine and coffee spot inside the bookstore

***Award-winning Phoenix Restaurants** *(while it may be difficult/impossible to get reservations, they do accept walk-ins and you can almost always get a small group of 2-4 in):*

- Pizzeria Bianco – short walk from light rail in Heritage Square (where you will also find Bar Bianco, the excellent restaurants Latha and Que Sezon)
- Tratto
- Bacanora – and the chef's new taco shop Huarachi's
- Chilte
- Matt's Big Breakfast

Entertainment

***Roosevelt Row District (two lightrail stops south of Creighton)**

- Shops: Now or Never, Bunky Boutique, MADE, PHX General
- Bars/restaurants: AZ Wilderness (local brewery with great patio and food – good for groups), Carly's, Lom Wong (amazing but pricey Thai food), The Theodore (beer and wine spot), Tacos Chelos, Love Bite Dumplings, The Churchill (food and beverage stalls in one building with lots of seating), Matt's Big Breakfast, Sottise, Greenwood Brewery (women-owned and operated), Kahvi (coffee), Songbird (coffee and tea house), dialog (coffee and mocktails)
- Duck pin bowling at Châm Pang Lanes
- Cobra Arcade Bar
- Galleries

***Crescent Ballroom**—great bar, patio, restaurant and music every night

***Heard Museum**—one of the best museums of Native American art in the US, beautiful building, nice cafe, near lightrail

Symphony Hall

Phoenix Theater

Gammage Auditorium – landmark theater on the campus of Arizona State University in Tempe, 15 minute walk from the lightrail stop in Tempe, hosting Broadway traveling shows

Phoenix Art Museum – excellent permanent collection and many national touring exhibits (including a current one about Barbie), near lightrail

Musical Instrument Museum—in the far North valley but worth the trip, fascinating collection of instruments from around the world, hosts small concerts

Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art

Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West

Outdoors

But first, a word of caution: The desert sun is not your friend. Sunscreen/hats are a must. Even when it is not too hot, STAY HYDRATED. Your body is emanating water just existing here, especially outdoors.

***Desert Botanical Gardens**—one of the best cultural institutions in the valley, should not be missed, about a 20-minute drive or 20 minutes on the lightrail and a 15-minute walk, has a very good restaurant with a nice patio too, called Gertrude's

Japanese Friendship Garden – In downtown Phoenix, small but lovely and tranquil

South Mountain—largest city park in the country with extensive hiking trail system and great views over the valley

Camelback Mountain—desert hiking with city views

Phoenix Mountain Park (and Piestewa Trail) —more desert hiking with views

McDowell Mountains—desert hiking, views

Places to Take Kids

***Children's Museum of Phoenix**—great museum for little kids in a restored school, about a 10-minute drive from Creighton Health Sciences building

Arizona Science Center—big fun for elementary-aged kids, near lightrail

Phoenix Zoo—excellent place for a day out with kids, about a 20-minute drive or 20 minutes on the lightrail

Events Happening This Weekend

“What the Constitution Means to Me” – Phoenix Theater Company

The Kite Runner – ASU Gammage

Maricopa County Fair